

Maurice (Morry) was born in January 1923 in St George in the East, London to Jack Kieff and Leah Solomons and he was the youngest of three boys.

Morry's grandparents were Joseph Kieve who was born in 1858 in Posen and Annie Harris who was born in Russia in 1866. They arrived in England and were married on 29 December 1886 at Princes Street Synagogue in Spitalfields. Neither of them could read or write as they signed the register with their mark. Their marriage certificate states that Annie was twenty-one and Joseph who was twenty-six was working as a tailor. Their first child Leah was born in 1888 followed by Jack in 1889, Abraham in 1894, Polly in 1896, Isidore in 1898, Rose in 1899, Louis in 1901 and Rachel (Ray) in 1903.

On 20 July 1917 Joseph enlisted in the Army and records show that on the formation of the RAF on 1 April 1918 he transferred from the Army to the RAF as an aero rigger. He was discharged on 30 April 1920 and went on to work as a cabinet maker. Joseph's son Abraham also enlisted into the army in WW1. He was 20 when he enlisted in Brighton and lied about his name. He served under the name of Alfred Jackson and was killed on 22 June 1915. [Casualty Details | CWGC](#)

Morry's mother Leah died in 1933 when he was ten years old and was raised by his Aunt Rachel (Ray). His father went on to remarry in 1937 to Teresa Schmidt and had another two children.

Morry enlisted into the RAF in 1941 and trained as an air gunner.